Janata Cloth Scheme

3199. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have phased out the Janata Cloth Scheme;

(b) if so, since when and the number of handloom weavers displaced on account of the phasing out the Scheme; and

(c) the details of steps taken to provide them alternate employment?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) The decision to phase out the Janata Cloth Scheme by the terminal year of VIII Five year Plan was taken in 1992-93. The Scheme has been phased out with effect from 1.4.98. During the year 1997-98, an estimated 79,000 number of handloom weavers were benefitted from the Scheme. The decision to phase out the Scheme was communicated from time to time to the State Govts. So that effective steps may be taken by them to switch over the weavers to the production of non janata items. For this purpose, Package-II under the Janata Cloth Scheme was introduced in the year 1993-94 and the releases were made under the Scheme based on the viable proposals received from the State Govts. The Scheme, however, was extended for the year 1997-98 so as to facilitate the transition. The Govt. have meanwhile been providing assistance under various other Handloom Schemes which provide for input supplies, training, design development, marketing, infrastructure development etc. In order to ensure that the residual janata weavers are not put to any hardship, the State Govts. have recently been requested to assess the requirements of these weavers and send viable proposals under various handloom schemes including the Project Package Scheme.

Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centres in Bardhman, Bhuj and Barabanki

3200. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts/area jurisdictions which are being looked after by the Bardhman (West Bengal), Bhuj (Gujarat) and Barabanki (U.P.) Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centres, respectively;

(b) the standard staff strength of each Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centre;

(c) whether the manpower strength of these Centres is sufficient to ensure proper development of handicrafts in such vast areas under their jurisdiction;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to ensure development of handicrafts in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The districts/area of jurisdictions looked after by Burdwan (West Bengal), Bhuj (Gujarat) and Barabanki (U.P.) Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centres are as under.

1. *Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centre, Burdwan (West Bengal)*

(i) Burdwan (ii) Bankura (iii) Purulia (iv) Hooghly (v) 24 Parganas (North) (vi) 24 Parganas (South) (vii) Hawrah (viii) Midnapur (ix) Mursheedabad (x) Birbhum (xi) Nadia.

2. *Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centre, Bhuj (Gujarat)*

Whole Gujarat State and Dadar & Nagar Haveli.

3. *Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centre, Barabanki (U.P.)*

(i) Barabanki (ii) Unnao (iii) Hardoi (iv) Lucknow (v) Faizabad (vi) Allahabad (vii) Mirzapur (viii) Jaunpur (ix) Ballia